

A Celebration for the Life of Christopher Scott Rubel

February 10, 1933 ~ March 7, 2020



21 May, 2022 ~ 11:00 A.M.

Grace Episcopal Church
Glendora, California

A Memorial Service for Christopher Scott Rubel



Grace Episcopal Church
Saturday, May 21, 2022 ~ 11:00 A.M.

Pre-service music

Michael Ryan ~ Guitar Soloist

Special Music in memory of Christopher Rubel

(Please stand as you are able for the tolling of the bells)

Opening Anthem

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die.
And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Opening Hymn 594 "God of Grace and God of Glory" *Cwm Rhondda*

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient Church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise:
grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

(Please be seated for the readings)

We have come this day to celebrate the life of Christopher Scott Rubel, loving husband and father, dear friend, Episcopal priest, therapist, and so much more to all of us. Christopher passed into the nearer presence of Christ two years ago and we have waited until now to gather in this historic place as the threat of Covid appears to have subsided enough for us to be together. So now let us celebrate in a liturgy that is characterized by joy, in the certainty that, “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8: 38-39)

Collect

Judy Heffron

Officiant: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray:

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Christopher. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3

Syd Bartman

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Psalm 23 (Read aloud in unison)

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

Syd Bartman

Indeed, it is for your sake that all things are ordered, so that, as the abounding grace of God is shared by more and more, the greater may be the chorus of thanksgiving that ascends to the glory of God.

No wonder we do not lose heart! Though our outward humanity is in decay, yet day by day we are inwardly renewed. Our troubles are slight and shortlived; and their outcome an eternal glory which outweighs them far. Meanwhile our eyes are fixed, not on the things that are seen, but on the things that are unseen: for what is seen passes away; what is unseen is eternal.

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn 608 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" *Melita*

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard and hushed their raging at thy word,
who walkedst on the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

(Please be seated)

Thoughts & Memories..... Frank Shirbroun, Scott Rubel, Clarke Rubel

(Please stand as you are able)

Sequence Hymn 718 "God of our Fathers" *National Hymn*

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand,
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
lead us from night to never ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Officiant: A reading from the gospel of John.

Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling places in my Father's house; if it were not so I should have told you; for I am going there on purpose to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am you maybe also; and my way there is known to you.

Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus replied, "I am the way; I am the truth and I am life; no one comes to the Father except by me."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers for our Brother Christopher

Officiant: Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Christopher, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Officiant: You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Officiant: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of Heaven.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Officiant: Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Officiant: He was nourished in your body and blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Father of all, we pray to you for Christopher, and for all of those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Let us now pray as our Savior Christ has taught us:

(Please read aloud in unison.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Special Music

by Michael Ryan

Evening Prayer

Officiant: Let us pray.

(Read aloud in unison.)

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

Recessional Hymn 287

“For All the Saints”

Sine Nomine

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light. Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Toccata from Symphony V, Op.42

Charles-Marie Widor

Ma-Li Lin ~ Organist

Please join us for a reception in Baxter Hall
immediately following the service.

Christopher S. Rubel, Rel. D.

Christopher Scott Rubel, by professions throughout his life, was a trucker, marriage and family therapist, and chaplain. He was also a proud veteran, a priest, sailor, private pilot, author, poet, and storyteller. After proudly serving in the US Air Force during the Korean conflict, Chris worked as a long-haul truck driver while in college, and the love of travel by land, and later by sea and air, stayed with him all of his life.

Christopher's education included a doctorate degree in pastoral psychology from the Claremont School of Theology. He was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1977 and became a chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles and later at Inner Community Hospital in Covina. For 42 years Chris was a marriage and family therapist in both Long Beach, until 1990, and Claremont until 2008. Writing stories, poems, articles, letters and, later, emails were Chris' fun and fascination. He wrote his first book, *Pucketychoo* a personal history of water in Glendora and the San Gabriel Communities in 2003 and then a novel, *Lady of the Deep*, which was published in 2016. He loved growing up in Glendora in the 1930s and 1940s, with the people, the celebrations, the music, including his father's songs, and the great outdoors of that time. He had an amazing memory and shared vivid pictures of those days in his stories which touched and amused so many.

Throughout his life and so important were the preservation and enjoyment of the spectacular mountains overlooking his home town of Glendora. And diesel cars and trucks were a passion, as well as sail boats and airplanes, really anything that moved on wheels, water and air were where Chris found joy and peace. And he loved having time and conversations, always learning and sharing life, singing, listening to music, seeing old movies, and playing his trumpet for everyone's birthdays or celebrations. Friend Jan Pierce remembered how much Chris appeared to be at home in the world. Others said that he lived large. One dear friend said Chris had the gift of friendship. His was a great big, wonderful, busy, fulfilling life in which we were all blessed to share. Chris' immediate family are wife Katherine, son Scott, partner Helen, son Clarke and wife Laurie, granddaughter Julie, husband Alejandro and great granddaughter Luna, grandson Andrew, wife Kelly and grandsons Mason and Ryan and first wife, Lavon, mother of Scott and Clarke. Brother Michael died in 2007 and sister Dorchen died three months after Chris passed. You may still visit Chris' on his website for stories and pictures at christopherrubel.com.

Grace Episcopal Church ~ Rubel Chapel



The Rubel Chapel was named for Chris' father, Heinz Rubel. It was built by Lavon's father, Vaughn Gardenhire. Scott and Clarke were baptized there. Christopher baptized granddaughter (chapel picture) Julie and grandson Andy in the Chapel. That's where he also blessed Andy and Kelly's marriage. And just in the last five years, great grandson Mason, great granddaughter Luna and great grandson Ryan were baptized by Christopher in the chapel.

So much history. So many memories.



A donation may be made in memory of Christopher Rubel to
The Glendora Historical Society for The Rubel Castle
or Grace Episcopal Church of Glendora

Serving in Today's Service:

Celebrant.....The Rev. Canon Judy Heffron
Rector.....The Rev. Susan L. Scranton
Organist..... Ma-Li Lin
Guitar Soloist Michael Ryan
Lector Syd Bartman
UsherRick Sandona
GEC Stream Team..... Rick Sandona, Nathaniel Olmos, Mizuki Williamson
Flower Guild Rosann Kindt, Nancy Rice, Liz Sandona, Kathy Seielstad
Bulletin Editor & Design..... Nancy Rice



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